

John Henry Eaton to Rachel Donelson Jackson, December 7, 1828, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

JOHN H. EATON TO MRS. JACKSON.

Washington, December 7, 1828.

Mrs. Rachiel Jackson

My dear fr[i]end, for so I feel I may style you, the friends you have here, firm and numerous both male and female, have constantly enquired of me since my arrival to know if you would arrive with the genl. They regret that it can be even considered doubtful what your determination may be. There reasons are very satisfactory, and therefore have I undertaken to speak to you about it.

The past I need not repeat, for you know it well. To prejudice your husband, you well know what envenomed slander has been aimed at both of you. Not you alone, but others too, have felt its keen edge; and altho this is slender atonement to your own aggrieved feelings, it affords this consolation, that the assaults made proceeded exclusively from motives. The storm has now abated—the angry tempest has ceased to howl. A verdict by the American people has been pronounced of that high and grateful character, that for the honor of your husband, you cannot but look back on the past as an idle fading vision carrying in it nothing substantial—nothing that should produce to you one moments feeling, or a moments pain. No man has ever met such a triumph before: The voice of his Country has placed him at a sightless distance above his little tribe of little assailants; and in this high and gratifying consideration, should both of you repose, pleased and rejoiced.

Library of Congress

These remarks might have been omitted, only that they are designed merely as a prelude to what I in accord with all your freinds here desire in your behalf

The attentions intended to be meeted out to the general, and to you, are such as will evince to both of you a continuance of the same high and glowing feeling which has produced his unequalled and triumphant vote from the People. The Ladies from distance—from remote parts of the Union will be here—brought essentially and altogether on your account, and to manifest to you their feelings and high regard: they will be present to welcome and to congratulate you. If you shall be absent how great will be the dissapointment. Your persecutors then may chuckle, and say that they have driven you from the field of your husbands honors. By all means then come on; and as you have had to bear with him the reproaches of foes, participate with him in the greetings of his frends

I had thought heretofore, it would be better for you to remain and come on in May. That opinion is changed, since that I have arrived here, and heard the reasonings of your frends. I am especially invited to write to you on this subject, and in the name of those who are your warm and sincere frends to desire that you will be here at all events by the 1st of March, ready and rested for the 4th. Such is my confidence that you will be along with the general, under the suggestions I have made, that I shall no longer speak of it as at all doubtful; but say that you intend to proceed with the genl, and will be certainly here. A failure on your part will create disappointment and prove to your frends exceedingly trying

with sincere regard